



Rep. John Shadegg

Press Release

For Immediate Release:
Feb. 25, 2004

Contact:
Michael Steel
202-225-3361

Shadegg Amendment Helps Investors Check Out Brokers *Would Provide Information Online for Faster Access*

Washington – U.S. Congressman John Shadegg added an amendment to legislation today that would allow consumers to investigate securities firms and brokers online.

The amendment was added to H.R. 2179, the Securities Fraud Deterrence Act, by a voice vote during a markup in the House Financial Services Committee.

Information on brokers, including work history, as well as any felony convictions, disciplinary actions, or serious complaints, is already collected by the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). It is currently available in writing when an investor requests it, but it can take days or even weeks to process the request and get the information to the consumer. Congressman Shadegg's amendment would allow NASD to create a secure website, which individual investors can search on the internet at any time.

“This amendment will help investors get the information they need, when they need it,” Shadegg said. “People should have timely access to all the information so they can make informed investment choices.”

The Securities Fraud Deterrence Act would give the Securities and Exchange Commission new tools to crack down on fraud and return money to victims of fraud. It passed the House Financial Services Committee on a voice vote today, and will likely pass the House of Representatives later this year.